

### Background

While the Department of Health advises that the risk of transmission in Australia remains low; they are monitoring the situation and we are acting on their advice to take any necessary precautions for schools and our staff.

The Department of Education, Catholic Education Western Australia, and The Association of Independent Schools WA will continue to respond as a collaborative team to advice from the Department of Health and provide updated advice to schools and staff as appropriate.

### Current position

#### Students and Staff

Students or staff cannot attend school if they have:

- a) left or transited through **mainland China** in the last 14 days, they must isolate yourself for 14 days from the date of leaving mainland China **OR**
- b) left or transited through **Iran** on or after 1 March, you must isolate yourself until 14 days after leaving Iran; and
- c) if they have been informed by public health authorities that they have been in close contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus, you must isolate yourself for 14 days after the date of last contact with the confirmed case.

The above also applies to all parents/carers, contractors, visitors and volunteers on school sites.

Parents/carers and staff should notify their school if the student or staff member will be away for the isolation period and confirm the date in which they were last in the mainland China or Iran.

Schools should record the absence as a Reasonable absence (code R) and record the date the student was last in the Hubei Province of China.

A medical certificate is not required for the student to return to school.

Parents/carers should notify their school, and schools should record the absence as a Reasonable absence (code R). Evidence from the public health authority is required for the student to return to school.

## Travel

The Minister for Education and Training, announced 3 March 2020 that all school-related international travel (for students and staff) with the exception of travel to the USA, Canada and New Zealand (providing that this travel does not go through Asia), is not to proceed until further notice. This advice applies to all students and staff across all sectors.

## **Support and advice**

Parents/carers, students and staff should be referred to the [Department of Health website](#) or the healthdirect helpline on 1800 300 243 for more information on the virus and its symptoms.

The WA education coronavirus support centre has been established to provide coordinated support across Department of Education, Catholic Education WA, and Association of Independent Schools WA. The support centre may be contacted by principals for education advice, via email on [coronavirussupport@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:coronavirussupport@education.wa.edu.au) .